IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: Florian EISELE

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Conf. No.: Not yet assigned § Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

§

Appln. No.: Not yet assigned § Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filing Date:
§ Attorney Docket No.: 052460-18US

(M/ERB-129PC/US)

Title: NEUTRAL ELECTRODE FOR HF SURGERY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

Enclosed is an Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO/SB/08A and/or 08B in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1) and (a)(2) listing all patents, publications, applications, and/or other information being submitted for consideration which may be material to the patentability of this application and/or for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. Also enclosed are copies of each of the foreign patents and/or non-patent literature documents cited therein but not copies of any U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent application publications in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). However, we will provide copies upon request.

The enclosed references were cited in a German Office Action (copy enclosed) dated September 14, 2004 from the German Patent Office concerning counterpart German Application No. 10 2004 010 940.0-35 or in an International Search Report dated June 17, 2005 (copy enclosed) in counterpart International Application PCT/EP2005/001712. An English translation of pertinent portions of the attached German Office Action is enclosed.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that any of the listed documents constitutes prior art, nor as an admission against interest in any manner.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1017.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement and the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A and/or 08B be considered and acknowledged by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, be made of record therein, and that the listed document(s) be cited in the issued patent.

Respectfully submitted,

Florian EISELE

(Date)

William W. Schwarze Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 25,918

Direct Dial: 215-965-1270

E-Mail: wschwarze@akingump.com

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street, Suite 2200 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Telephone No.: 215-965-1200

Fax No.: 215-965-1210

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